

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 19, 2006, claims 10 and 11 were rejected under §112, 2nd paragraph, claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-19 were rejected under §102(e) and claims 6, 7, 13, 14 and 20-28 were rejected under §103(a). In the present Response, claim 2 has been amended to correct a typographical error and claim 10 has been amended to address the §112 rejection.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections under §§102 and 103. As set forth in the attached Section 1.131 inventor declarations which are supported by accompanying documentation, the primary reference cited in the rejection of all of the claims, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0268178 ("Fredin"), is not prior art as it was filed on June 19, 2003, after the conception of the present invention at least as early as October 6, 2002 and its reduction to practice at least as early as January 3, 2003. Thus, the claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Fredin, either alone or in combination with any other reference.

For the foregoing reasons, the claims are believed to be allowable, the Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a favorable Action is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if a conversation would expedite prosecution of this case.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time. A one-month extension fee is believed to be due and accompanies this Response. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any deficiency of fees submitted herewith, or the credit of any overpayment, to deposit account number 09-0449.

Respectfully Submitted,



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